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Ground Zero News

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HOCUS FOCUS, which will it be?

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE OR MINISTRY

By Rick Cendo

Rick Cendo has written for The New York Times, worked as a media consultant on Wall Street, and taught writing at the University of Colorado. A gay activist, writer, and private investor, he lives in Boulder with his partner Garry Hamner.

Focus on the Family (FOF) is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization which means, at the very least, that it's supposed to stay out of the active support of or opposition to specific pieces of legislation.

Hank Brown is a United States Senator from Colorado. That means he's supposed to represent the interests of all Coloradans.

Alas, things aren't always as they're supposed to be.

In June, Senator Brown became incensed with an effort by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to protect people from religious harassment and forceful recruitment in the workplace. Apparently feeling that such a move by the EEOC would hamper the "witnessing" or recruiting efforts of radical fundamentalists, Brown promptly wrote legislation condemning the EEOC.

The rest of the story is told by James Dobson, head of FOF, in a July letter to its members:

"Senator Brown and his legislative aide Joe Rogers came by FOF to share their perspective and request public support for the resolution. I'm pleased to tell you that senatorial offices were inundated with calls and letters after our broadcast."

Brown's office confirmed that Brown met personally with Dobson but added that Brown's visit to Focus was for a radio interview.

The Internal Revenue Service rules regarding tax-exempt status are pretty loose, and many groups have promoted or opposed general political causes under the guise of "education." Indeed, many Washington, D.C., research foundations, commonly called "think tanks," have for years pushed particular points of view while enjoying 501 (c)(3) status.

Nevertheless, all those who play on the edges of the IRS's rules for tax exemption have been careful to follow two rules that the IRS insists on. They are:

1. Do not endorse or oppose specific political can didates or specific pieces of legislation.
2. Do not organize people for the purpose of political activity.

Endorsing and opposing legislation and organizing for political action are both the sole provence of political action committees. And unlike Focus, PAC's and their contributors are required to pay taxes.

While Focus on the Family appears, in the past, to have violated its tax-exempt status and engaged in political action, it has, at least, been somewhat discreet about it. No more.

With an annual budget of $96 million and growing, Focus is now so rich and politically powerful that it apparently no longer feels it has to pay even lip service to the law. And neither does Senator Brown.

"Instead, Brown has recognized Focus for what it is, *a political action committee.*"

He did not go to Focus, hat in hand, for "education" or for advice on how to be a better father. Rather, he went to Focus with a specific piece of legislation he needed help in pressuring the United States Senate to pass. He knew that Focus could deliver political action, and it did. He knew that Focus, under Federal law, is not supposed to deliver political action, and he didn't care. All of this is a total violation of Federal tax law.

And to top it all off, Focus' president, James Dobson, is now bragging in public and writing about his and Brown's blatantly illegal activity.

GROUND ZERO/DR. MEL WHITE ISSUE APPEAL FOR MATERIALS/DOCUMENTS IN REGARD LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF FOCUS ON THE FAMILY. SEE PAGE 3

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

GROUND ZERO is expanding its GRANT WRITING COMMITTEE and we are looking for three to four individuals who have some experience with the field of Grant Writing. Time commitment will be approximately six to eight hours per month. If you are interested, please call the GZ office at 636-6086 and ask for Bobby Mone, or, fill out the VOLUNTEER FORM in this newsletter and mail it to the P. O. Box 1982, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901, Attn: Grant Writing Committee, or Fax form to 635-6106.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Colorado Springs Women's Caucus and NOW
WHAT: Meet the Candidate Party
WHEN: September 15, 1994 7-9pm
WHERE: Antlers Doubletree, Freemont Room
WHY: To get to know the candidates and the issues.
INFO: Connie 685-4556, Marguerite 591-6544

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SMOKEBRUSH CENTER

Premier of new children's play and National Play Contest Winner, *Giufa Meets The Pirates* by Mary Elaine Lora, Saturday, September 24 through Saturday, October 1. Fast-paced and funny, the play is based on the Italian folktales told the author by her grandmother.

Ground Zero News is an authorized publication for members of **Ground Zero.** Contents of ***Ground Zero News*** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the Board of Directors of **Ground Zero.** The editorial content is edited and prepared by the Newsletter staff/committee.
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Ground Zero News is published on the first day of each month. Submissions should be sent to P. O. Box 1982, Colorado Springs, CO 80901. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. All submissions will be edited to conform with accepted standards.

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IN COMING ISSUES

How does a child deal with the knowledge that his father is gay and his mother is a lesbian? *Ground Zero* has been given permission by Noel Black, a recent graduate of Lake Forrest College, to excerpt his award winning thesis entitled *Understanding Difference Through Paradox.* In this work Noel pursues both a personal and academic exploration of coming to terms with his parents' sexuality and his relationship with them. It is a fascinating and moving account of dealing with two gay parents in a homophobic society. This series will being in the October Newsletter and run for several months. Watch for it!!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Newsletter

***Ground Zero News* is produced in large part with financial support extended through a grant by THE CHINOOK FUND.**

Community Support

Jim Valamier has been our computer support person from the very beginnings of Ground Zero. Without complaint, he is always there when we need him. Thanks Jim.

Our volunteer staff has increased significantly in the past month. Thanks Jay, Shelly, Jenn, Julie, and Terri Lynn.

And thanks, Lotus Eater, for selling our buttons and putting up with us.

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The Gill Foundation has supplied continuing general support and specific project support on an ongoing basis. Thanks Tim.

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WHOSE FAMILY VALUES?

13 year old boy pictured was a participant in the 1993 Ku Klux Kan Rally in Colorado Springs. It brings to mind the question asked above. Picture was part of a feature article on Colorado Springs as part of a series entitled "Intolerance in America" run by the *Sacramento Bee* in the Fall of 1993.

MEL WHITE AND GROUND ZERO ISSUE NATIONAL APPEAL

In the August, 1994 issue of Ground Zero News, it was announced that Dr. Mel White, author of *Stranger at the Gate*, who had just completed the *Fast for Understanding* in front of the Focus on the Family Campus, and Ground Zero, would initiate a program to introduce materials and information to the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Postal Service relevant to the SPECIAL non-profit status of Focus on the Family.

Ground Zero joins Dr. White in his belief that Dr. James Dobson, Director of Focus on the Family, Focus on the Family, and their subsidiary groups, have assumed the lead in attacking gays and lesbians and in supporting laws that would exclude gays and lesbians from and fighting laws that would include gays and lesbians in civil rights ordinances.

Inasmuch as it is the belief of Dr. White and of Ground Zero that Focus on the Family has entered strongly into the world of lobbying and political activity to accomplish the elimination of gays and lesbians from viable participation in government and society, it is proposed that Focus on the Family is in violation of the provisions of its IRS 501 (c)(3) status and is in violation of its SPECIAL Non-Profit Bulk Rate status with the United States Postal Service.

This opinion is even more forcefully supported with indications that Focus on the Family, and its subsidiary front organizations, are, or have been, deeply involved in action to support anti-abortion legislation and political activity, to affect legislative action in the fields of education, family leave, health care, environment, the exclusion of gays in the military, in matters involving pro-family leave legislation, criminal law, among many others. It is further indicated that they have objectives in the areas of the Equal Rights Amendment and of English Only Laws, as well as immigration laws and laws that support multiculturalism.

Ground Zero is collecting materials to support all of these allegations, including printed materials, voice and video recordings, testimony, etc., attributable to Focus on the Family, Dr. James Dobson, their various local organizations around the nation and the Family Research Council. Many gays and lesbians, and those friendly to gay and lesbian rights, have been collecting these materials and/or are on the mailing lists of Focus on the Family and related organizations. Ground Zero seeks copies of relevant materials, directly attributable to Dr. Dobson and these organizations and stories and articles that may have appeared in other publications or that are extracted from other television and radio commentaries and reports.

If you are out there and have been wondering if you would ever have use for these materials you've so studiously collected, the answer is yes and the time is now. Individuals are called on to send the materials and testimonies in NOW to the address given below. Those involved in groups are asked to pass this request on to the membership in these groups through newsletters and direct mailing and those involved in computer networks are asked to send this request out with widest spread possible.

Don't delay. Send your salient materials to Ground Zero, P. O. Box 1982, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901 today. It is time to confront the purveyors of lies, myths and stereotyping head on; it is time to seek to deny them the 'Special' privileges that they are abusing and it is time to stop them from receiving tax relief and tax support to distribute information that is political in nature and has political objectives and for creating the national mood of "cultural warfare" that is causing the death of so many of our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. If you also want to support this activity financially, you are encouraged to send donations made to Ground Zero at the above address .

PIKES PEAK UNITED RODEO

The *Colorado Gay Rodeo Association* (CGRA) and the *Pikes Peak United Rodeo Association* announce the **FOURTH ANNUAL PPUR RODEO** September 24 & 25 at Penrose Stadium in Colorado Springs. The rodeo is sponsored by Miller Lite, IGRA (International Gay Rodeo Association, CGRA and PPUR. The host hotel is the Holiday Inn, North, located at I-25 and Fillmore.

Norm Relaford, President of CGRA/PPUR, extends an invitation to the community at large to come out and support their favorite cowboys and cowgirls. "We need to show pride in supporting these rodeos, as well as many other events throughout the year."

There are a total of 22 gay rodeos this year in the United States and Canada and indications are that there will be more added each year. These rodeos have been publicized nationwide and have received recognition for being "damn fine events," according to Norm.

Tickets will be available at the box office on the days of the events and are $10. You are also reminded that CGRA is hosting the 8th annual IGRA finals on October 20-23 in Denver.

THINK YOU HAVE A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD!!!

CALL THE NEWS STAFF GROUND ZERO

1-719-635-6086

HELP US KEEP THE COMMUNITY *INFORMED!*

THE NGLTF ON ENDA

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), if passed, would outlaw employment discrimination based on sexual orientation in matters of hiring, firing, promotion and pay. It is currently being considered by Congress. Below are questions and answers recently distributed by NGLTF in regard this issue.

1. WHAT DOES ENDA DO?
ENDA prohibits an employer from using an individual's sexual orientation as the basis for adverse or different treatment in employment or employment opportunities.

2. WHO IS PROTECTED?
ENDA protects heterosexuals, homosexuals and bisexuals from discrimination in the workplace based on their sexual orientation.

3. WHY IS ENDA NECESSARY?
Gay men, lesbians and bisexuals face serious discrimination in employment, which strikes at the core of an individuals ability to participate in society. A February 1994 *Newsweek* poll showed that 74% of all Americans favor protecting gay men, lesbians and bisexuals from job discrimination.

4. WHAT EMPLOYER ACTIONS ARE COVERED UNDER ENDA?
ENDA covers an employer's decisions regarding employment and employment opportunities, such as hiring, firing, promotion, training, and compensation. Such decisions may not be made on the basis of an individuals sexual orientation.

5. WHAT KIND OF RELIEF IS AVAILABLE UNDER ENDA?
ENDA incorporates the enforcement mechanisms and remedies of the employment section (TITLE VII) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This means an employee may receive "injunctive relief"--such as reinstatement in a job and/or back pay. A plaintiff also may receive monetary damages to the extent allowed under Title VII,

6. IS THE MILITARY COVERED BY ENDA?
No. ENDA does not apply to the relationship between the U.S. government and members of the Armed Forces. Consequently, the bill has no affect on current law governing gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals in the military.

7. ARE RELIGIONS COVERED BY ENDA?
No. ENDA exempts all religious corporations, associations, and societies. In addition, it exempts educational institutions substantially owned, managed, controlled, or supported by religious organizations, as well as educational institutions whose curriculum is directed to the teaching of religious doctrine.

8. DOES ENDA PERMIT QUOTAS OR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT?
No. ENDA explicitly states that employers may not "Be quotas, or give preferential treatment to an individual based on sexual orientation.

Censorship reared it's ugly, religious-right head at UCCS on May 23, 1994, when an artist's black and white photograph of a frontal nude male was stolen from a student art show less than two hours after the show's opening.

The artist, Leslie R. Apodaca of Village Seven, was outraged. "No other artist had their work stolen," Apodaca said, "There are pictures of women's breasts included in the show and those are still up. Why can't the penis be beautiful, too?"

The stolen black and white photo depicted the front of a man from the hips to just above the knee cast in soft light and shadows. The penis was flaccid and streaks of sunlight streamed across the thighs. The model was tastefully and warmly photographed.

Too upset to write an artist's apology for the empty space, Apodaca dictated his words to a friend who hand wrote the notice: "It is with sincerest apology of the artist that this space is empty. A member of our loving community has chosen to censor your views of art and thought. Welcome to 1984, Big Brother is watching you....Thank you."

Apodaca receives a prompt reply on his words: "Leslie, you are a whore and have no artistic concepts. Get a Playgirl if you want to get off!"

The small sign, with its anonymous commentary, remained on the wall for the duration of the show, and filled the entire void with its ominous message. Apparently the holy and sacred penis must remain mysterious and shrouded while women's breasts remain public property.

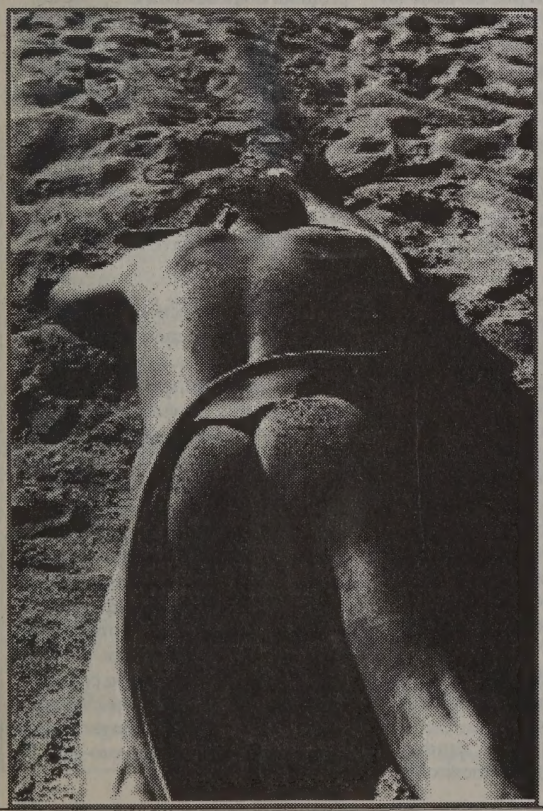
Interestingly, the photographs in Apodoca's display were chosen by his artist classmates, "... and they had a tough time deciding," remembered Apodaca. "I submitted twenty pictures and eight were chosen for the show."

Apodaca has an earthy, realistic view when it comes to photographing nudes. "I like real people who are fit, but not models or beauty queens. I like to shoot (them) in common, everyday setting. Reality is more sensual and pleasing to the eye."

About a week after the UCCS art show, Apodaca received an unauthored letter in the mail, (no return address, of course!) accusing him of being gay, which he openly is, and of going after children. The letter carried a heavy religious message and quoted the same old scripture verses. "I drank Maalox and couldn't sleep for a week," he recalled.

Apodaca rebounds quickly, though. He presently has three photographs displayed at the State Fair, selected by Fair officials from several submitted. Hopefully, none of these photographs will be stolen (censored?).

Does Apodaca think the note, letter and theft were done by the same person? "It's a good possibility," he replied, "but now I'd like to think that someone just wanted a huge picture of a penis to hang in their living room."



THE BODY BEAUTIFUL: Local artist Leslie R. Apodaca has a talent for taking average people in average settings and creating intensely beautiful images. "I love female sensuality," Apodaca said, "but a man can be soft as well as masculine, also"

Article by Julie Cooper

SPOTLIGHT ON HATE

Tom Sandoval

The Ohio Chapter of the American Family Association's Plot to eliminate gays and lesbians from political and social viability

Holy Wars

Religious fundamentalist movements have a long history of promoting religious viewpoints and agendas in secular society. Colorado's Amendment 2 and Oregon's Measure 9 are examples of right wing attempts to erode the separation of church and state prescribed by the framers of the Constitution. So-called grassroots organizations intent on capitalizing on the militant religious agenda pioneered by groups such as The Christian Coalition, the American Family Association, Colorado for Family Values (CFV) and Focus on the Family have begun to dot the American political landscape. Project Spotlight (PS) is a troubling new participant in the Religious War on secular society declared at the 1992 Republican National Convention.

Idle Hands

Project Spotlight is the creation of the Ohio chapter of the American Family Association (AFA) as a vehicle to implement a statewide (and eventually nationwide) agenda designed to intimidate gay friendly elected officials and install openly hostile ones to help subvert the civil rights of gay Americans.

The original PS campaign began in 1993 to repeal a gay friendly ordinance adopted by the Cincinnati city council. The project's stated goal was to "win back" the city councils of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, Youngstown and Dayton, Ohio from the clutches of perceived "pro-homosexual" officials.

Hate 101

Many hands contributed to the creation of PS financially and strategically. PS acknowledges that AFA and CFV directly provided funding and expertise to their efforts, which closely paralleled CFV's actions in Colorado in both style and substance. Indeed, approximately $400, 000 worth of assistance (and fully 80% of the total election budget) was provided by CFV. Additionally, a summit held in Colorado Springs in April 1993 by CFV principals shared skills and information necessary for running an anti-gay electoral campaign. Two attendees were Ohio residents Doug Montgomery and Phil Burress. Montgomery was executive director of Take Back Cincinnati- which changed its name to Equal Rights, Not Special Rights shortly after it gathered enough signatures to put the issue on the ballot. Burress, through his group Citizens for Community Values, spearheaded the lawsuit against the Cincinnati Art Museum over the display of certain photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe. The contents of the conference were distilled into a kit later marketed by CFV to interested like minded groups nationwide wishing to pursue an anti-gay agenda.

Agenda Benders

The stated agenda of PS is outlined in its April 1994 information packet written by director Scott Ross:

1) To educate the public about the homosexual agenda.

2) To educate voters about every candidate who is pro homosexual by identifying which candidates have been endorsed by the homosexuals and the values these candidates advocate to receive that endorsement.

Objectionable Objectives

Ross states two similar objectives for his group:

1) "To hold candidates accountable for promoting the 'homosexual agenda' through public policy."

2) "To elect a majority (of)....candidates who oppose the 'homosexual agenda'. Once accomplished, repeal the Human Rights Ordinance of any other homosexual 'special rights' legislation in each...city."

Additionally, Ross writes "every city must implement a plan to find candidates who are 'pro-family' and willing to run for city council." None is offered, however.

Step by Step

Ross describes a four step plan for action.

1) educate (via media) voters about the "homosexual agenda".

2) register people to vote.

3) start a "petition" drive to gather signatures of like minded voters. The suggested language of said petition reads:

"I pledge that I will not vote for any candidate that has accepted a political endorsement from homosexuals. I am opposed to elected officials promoting the homosexual agenda...I am for equal rights for all. Therefore, I am opposed to special rights laws that promote homosexuality."

Nothing in this statement deals with actually placing anything on a ballot. It is a clever tool to identify homophobic voters and create a list for usage in step 4.

4) Two weeks before an election, mail to every person who signed the petition a list of candidates who have been endorsed by homosexuals and a list of those who have not

Christianization

In the objectives section, Ross mentions an African-American minister, Rev. Chas Winburn, who ran for council opposing "special rights" as tacit proof that the African-American constituency can be exploited as a valuable voting bloc. This contradicts statements made at the April 1993 summit by CFV director Kevin Tebedo warning that to court racial minorities for a "political motive...is insincere". Far more telling was commentary made by thoroughly discredited psychologist Paul Cameron who simplistically states that the only "black" people who can be counted on to support a 'Traditional Values Agenda' are married. "Single people who are shacking up are pro-gay...If

Spotlight on Hatred-continued

"Groups spawned by wealthy militant Christian groups are poised to take control of Governemnt from School Boards to the White House if secular society does not react swiftly to the threat."

they are on welfare, they are pro-gay." Cameron then postulates that "until {the racial minority} community or group is Christianized enough to start picking up their marriage rate, I don't think they can be won. Period."

Reach Out and Oppress Someone

Possibly the most outrageous statements (and there are many) made in the Spotlight literature is on the creation of what is referred to as "Operation Hope".

Author Phil Burress, in his concluding paragraph mentions that leaders involved in the Cincinnati effort "wanted" to create an outreach program for "the homosexuals and others with sexual addictions". No objective is stated but one might guess that conversions to heterosexuality and "family values" are actually attempted, probably by warped psychologists like Cameron. This self-serving ploy aims to give the impression that the groups actions are altruistic and pure. The operation is intended to give the public a perception that, despite their penchant for virulent rhetoric and tacit approval of anti gay violence, PS and its analogues are caring and compassionate human beings.

Burress writes, " Homosexuals really believe we hate them. They really believe that we are bigots and homophobic. They do not make this up. For those of us who are Christians, and most who are in these campaigns are, how can we proceed with a political campaign without reaching out to someone who thinks we hate them?"

Coercive Elimination of Dissent

Groups spawned and groomed by wealthy militant Christian groups are poised to take control of Government from school boards to the White House if secular society does not react swiftly to the threat. Perhaps the most eloquent statement made with regards to the dangers of majoritarianism was made in 1943, when Justice Jackson wrote the opinion of the Supreme Court in West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barnette, saying in part: "The very purpose of the Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of majorities and officials and to establish them as legal principles to be applied by the courts. One's rights to life, liberty, and property, to free speech, a free press, freedom of worship and assembly, and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to a vote. They depend on the outcome of no elections.

....Struggles to coerce uniformity of sentiment in support of some end thought essential to their time and country have been waged by many good as well as by evil men...As first and moderate methods to attain unity have failed, those bent on its accomplishment must resort to an ever increasing severity. ....Those who begin coercive elimination of dissent soon find themselves eliminating dissenters. Compulsory unification of opinion achieves only the unanimity of the graveyard."

CFV PROPOSES ANTI-RAINBOW TROUT AMENDMENT

by FRANKLIN WHITWORTH

In its continuing campaign to remove the threat of the very colorful "homosexual" agenda from all visibility, Kevin Tebedo, director of Colorado for Family Values, those fun lovers who gave us Amendment Two, announced today that a petition is to be circulated supporting a law that would require that all rainbow trout register as potential agents of the radical homosexual agenda.

"We can't specifically put a finger on it," said Tebedo, "but we are sure that there are connections between a large number of these trout and queers. I mean, look at how those trout slither through the water and I'm sure that I saw two male trout bumping each other seductively last week in a stream near my home. We just can't be too careful!!!"

In a related move, Tebedo has addressed a letter to the National Fisheries Board demanding a list of all people who work directly with or who are connected with rainbow trout, or who may have any direct knowledge of the ties between the Rainbow Trout Movement and the Gay Agenda. "We have strong suspicions that there is a perverted liason between these two dangerous groups," Tebedo spluttered. "We need to have a list of all these potential subversives and perverts ready when the day comes for us to act more directly."

This reporter has it on the best authority that Colorado for Family Values has been working with a leading research team, funded by Focus on the Family and headed by Dr. Paul Cameron, that is seeking ways of eliminating colors altogether, especially more than one color in the same area or on the same document. It is rumored that they are seeking to develop a ray gun capable of rendering all US citizens color blind. When contacted, Cameron stated that they have made great progress in this direction. "The only problem" he continued, "stems from the fact that we are now faced with too many shades of grey and we fear people will substitute these grey tones for colors of the rainbow. This would be an obvious perversion of the worst sort. It's very perplexing. It would be so much better if everything, and everyone, could just be white, but we haven't figured out how to do that yet. "The Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan has had some interesting solutions to this problem," Cameron observed, "but we view these as somewhat premature."

The New York office of Colorado for Family Values has also announced that it is keeping its eye on the "Rainbow Room" high atop the RCA Building. "From that vantage point," stated a member of the organization who wished to remain anonymous, "homosexuals and their friends would have a commanding position in the battle for New York and we know that they serve alot of Rainbow Trout up there."

"We may be overreacting" stated Tebedo, "but better safe than sorry. In essence, we don't view the Rainbow Trout population as essential and its elimination may be justifiable for the greater good. Certainly, we should be looking at the possibility of removing them from the mainstream population to segregated ponds for their own protection while we study this matter more."

Fiction--of course--but as we have said before--truth is often stranger than fiction.

One Man's Journey Toward Justice-Doing

by Samuel Behrens

It was early fall in Southern California, which, in terms of the weather, means absolutely nothing! I found myself sitting in a fellowship hall at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena. I was listening to Dan Stohler, a tall, 42 year-old Christian homosexual with full blown AIDS, talk about something called "Justice-Doing." I had never heard those two words put together in such a fashion, but I was intrigued as to what what he meant by them. Dan was a long time member of Evangelical Christians and had helped birth the idea of "Justice-Doing" in the Gay Community. The church building with its Gothic architecture, massive stone walls and stained-glass windows, was one of the most beautiful I had seen. I decided to sit back and listen to what was being said.

I have to admit, I enjoy people-watching. Looking around at everyone listening intently to the speakers and watching the cameras film the meeting, I had a sense that not only were these people serious about the subject, but that this meeting represented a cross-roads in my life. I was either going to join the activism task force that Dan spoke about, or I was going to sit back and just watch. At the end of the meeting I found myself signing up for the first meeting at Dan Stohler's home in October. At some time during that meeting, I had decided to stop just sitting back and watching. I had made a decision to start justice-doing, and my life has never been the same!

One of the first things we did, besides choosing the name *Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice* and deciding on a mission statement, was to send a thank you letter to all of the churches, synagogues, ministers and lay people in Topeka, Kansas who had signed a declaration condemning Fred Phelps and his followers. The signers of the declaration were primarily heterosexual Christians who had decided that Phelps' hate-filled "brand of Christianity" was not the good news of Jesus Christ that was spoken of in the scriptures. In lending our support, we had finally found our voice and were using it to declare, for the first time, that justice-doing was a part of our commitment to Jesus Christ.

From that little start, the Justice team continues to pray for God's continued guidance in how He would have us proceed. Dan Stohler debated two reparative therapists at Fuller Theological Seminary.

> This is what the Lord says:
> **Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is very close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.** --Isaiah 56:1

We shared a booth at the Christopher Street West Pride Festival with Evangelicals Concerned Western Region, in Pasadena, where 64 people signed up to know more about Gay and Lesbian Christians! We started a "telephone tree," which we believe will go nationwide in the next year to help alert lesbian and gay Christians to important issues that require an immediate response. We have started a speaker's bureau to send forth those who feel a call to spread the good news that Jesus Christ loves and accepts gays and lesbians just as they are. We are monitoring national organizations who are either for or against preserving the constitutional rights of gays and lesbians. We not only sent a representative to fast for seven days in support of Mel White's *Fast for Understanding*, in front of Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colorado, but we also sent a delegation with flowers to Lou Sheldon's encampment to show solidarity with Mel White's mission.

We are currently building coalitions with open and affirming churches across America, MCC International, P-FLAG International, GLAAD-LA, Ground Zero in Colorado Springs, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Lambda Legal Defense Fund, People for the American Way, and many other organizations across America who support the inclusion of lesbians and gays in the mainstream of American life. We have started a organization of writers who will respond to articles in newspapers and magazines which carry information concerning gays and lesbians in America. We are in the process of becoming linked with *Internet*, *Promethius* and other computer bulletin

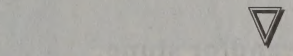
Always be sure that you struggle with Christian methods and Christian weapons. Never succumb to the temptation of becoming bitter. As you press on for justice, be sure to move with dignity and discipline, using only the weapon of love. Let no man pull you so low as to hate him. Always avoid violence. If you succumb to the temptation of using violence in your struggle, unborn generations will be the recipients of a long and desolate night of bitterness, and your chief legacy to the future will be an endless reign of meaningless chaos.

In your struggle for justice, let your oppressor know that you are not attempting to defeat or humiliate him, or even to pay him back for injustices, that he has heaped upon you. Let him know that you are merely seeking justice for him as well as yourself.

from a sermon that Martin Luther King, Jr. preached on November 6, 1956 in Montgomery, Alabama.

boards across the continent. Every month brings new faces, new ides and new levels of commitment!

So, how did my life change as a result of that meeting in the fellowship hall in All Saints Episcopal Church? **I was the representative sent to fast for seven days in Colorado Springs!** While there, my level of commitment became even deeper and stronger. It was there that, while a gentle rain had begun to fall, I sat in the front seat of a car overlook ing Pikes Peak. A Jewish mom sat at the wheel, her 15 year-old daughter was listening in the back seat. I will never foret her answer to my question as to why a heterosexual Jewish mom would drive all the way to support Christian homosexuals. She said, with a seriousness in her voice which I immediately caught, **"If you remember correctly, the last time they came for you, they came for us next!"** As she was driving away and we were saying our "God bless yous," I remembered that I was no longer just sitting back and watching. I was justice-doing!



Samuel Behrens is a former minister with the Assemblies of God. He left the ministry when he realized that he was gay. He has recently graduated from law school and has passed the California Bar Exam. He is waiting for the completion of his background check before being sworn in as an attorney. He is currently the Secretary to E.C.W.R. Pasadena and is a charter member of Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice. He volunteers time with Ayuda Legal-Los Angeles County Bar Association, Immigration Project and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.. If you would like to join or, if you have any questions concerning the Justice Team, Samueal can be reached at: 7742 Redlands St #D-1050, Playa del Rey, Ca. 90293. His voice number is 310-822-2183. His fax number is 310-822-1911.

Linda Sutton, M.A.

counselor • mediator • consultant

love matters for lesbians and gays

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WELCOME

SUSAN SWERN

TO THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

We want to extend a warm welcome to Susan, the newest member of the newsletter staff. Susan comes to the Springs and GZ via Boston where whe was very active in the gay and lesbian community. She will be lending her editing talents to the montly GZ News which will make an already superb newsletter even better. So thank you Susan, we are all very excited to have you as part of our community.

$ Who pays the Doctor? $

In recent statements, representatives of Focus on the Family have made it clear that Dr. James Dobson is unsalaried. According to Dobson, his income comes principally from the sale of his books.

$ $ $

Ground Zero has no evidence to contradict this. We also are poor and cannot afford the researchers to determine if it is true or not. In fact, had Dr. Dobson not made a point of it himself, we would not have begun to have questions of our own.

For instance:

Who paid for Dr. Dobson's residential palace?

Beautiful marble and/or stone work was donated to Focus on the Family building by a kind benefactor, who most likely received a whopping tax deduction for same. Did any of this end up in Dr. Dobson's residence?

Who pays for the servants, groundskeepers, utilities, telephone bills, taxes? (whoops--maybe there aren't any taxes.)

Who paid for the recent rumored remodeling of the several-year old-house?

Who owns the cars that the Dobson's drive? Who pays for the gas and insurance?

Who pays the grocery bill and who pays for Mrs. Dobson frequent trips to the beauty salon?

Who pays for Dr. Dobson's office? His support staff? His secretary (s)? Research done for his books?

Who pays for the Dobson family health insurance?

$ $ $

While assuming that Focus makes some of the income off the Dr. Dobson's books that it sells, who pays for all the advertising and shipment?

Is it not reasonable to assume that Focus is the principle source of sales for Dr. Dobson's books? Is this a symbiotic relationship?

Does Dr. Dobson make money off of the commercialized radio spots he does? Who pays for the very nice studio these shows are produced in? Who pays for the production and production staff, including the reproduction of these spots?

When Dr. Dobson travels, who pays for the travel expenses? Dr. Dobson announced that he is in Europe writing a new book. Since this is his principle source of income, who pays the expenses? Afterall, he has been gone six weeks and has stayed in the very best accommodations in London and Paris.

Dear Dr. Dobson,

We do not ask these questions expecting answers--nor do we care. In fact--we believe that none of this is any of our business and that you are an honest man, sincere, albeit sincerely wrong. We print this only as an example of how a grain of sand, by inference, can be made into oceans of myths and stereotypes; something you and your people do with such ease in relation to their representations of lesbians and gays.

YOU CANNOT SERVE BOTH GOD AND MONEY

by Samuel Dean Behrens

(Samuel Behrens is an attorney from LA who is with the Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice. Recently, he joined the FAST FOR UNDERSTANDING with Mel White. He returned to LA just in time for the incident related below.)

On August 11, in the searing heat of the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Burbank, California, **George Jerome,** the financial promoter of the so-called "Christian" gathering of evnagelicals at *Summer Praise '94,* tore into a booth that had been pre-approved for *Evangelicals Concerned.* Physically shaking and red-faced, Jerome stomped into the rented space and started screaming and shouting at David I'erona and Felix Barretto. Jerome hollered for all to hear, **"This is MY event and I am throwing you out of here!"** He ripped down the vendor's banners which had scriptural quotes on them from the Book of Micah in the Old Testament and the logo of Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice.

Jerome continued his tirade, **"I represent the Christian community and nobody wants you here."** This was an interesting statement coming from a person of the Jewish faith. Additionally, just minutes before the outburst, one of Jerome's administrators told David Perona, "Personally, I don't have a problem with you being here. I bet there are a lot of people here who think I shouldn't be here because I am Catholic and this is a Christian event."

Jerome's expensive media advertisements were "over $100,000" to promote *Praise '94.* He stated in his vendor literature, "It is our hope and prayer that we create the atmosphere conducive to accomplish the following goals: 1) Recognition and appreciation of the diversity of faiths participating at this event and to love, support and cooperation with all members of the body of Christ." This was the same man who was screaming at Perona and Barreto, **"If I would have known that you were gay Christians, I would never have let you in here."**

After Jerome kicked the banner into a ball and shoved it under the table, Perona tried to calm Jerome down. Perona tried to explain that all the **Evangelicals Concerned** wanted to do was to sell Mel White's latest book, *Stranger at the "Gate,* and Robert Alexander's booklet, *Seeking God's Wisdom About Christian Homosexuality.*

Perona asked Jerome for a copy of the application showing ECWR's right to be there. Agitated, Jerome screamed back, **"I don't have to show you the application because I am throwing you out."** At this point, feeling that Jerome was on the verge of violence, Perona decided to pack up and leave rather than to get into any kind of altercation.

Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice (CGLJ) is an outreach ministry of Evangelical's Concerned Western Region, Inc. (ECWR). ECWR is a non-profit organization which holds weekly Bible-studies in homes all over the western United States, from Colorado to Washington to California, with headquarters in Phoenix, AZ. CGLJ's stated mission is to "promote the biblical foundations for the affirmation of gay and lesbian Christians and same-sex committed relationships. Through Christ's examples of justice-doing, we confront the injustice of violence and oppression against lesbians and gays, especially when it originates in the Christian community. We strive to engage in meaningful communication and truth seeking dialogue related to those issues within the Christian family."

When contacted by a representative of ECWR later in the day, Jerome stated that he decided to throw ECWR out when several vendors demanded a return of their money. I guess the scripture is true when it states, **"You cannot serve both God and money."**

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Dena Kaye and Freddy Burch

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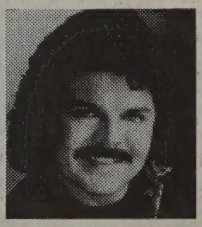
This year's rodeo will be held September 23, 24 and 25th. On Friday, September 23, Gay recording star, Freddy Burch will be performing live at 10pm and 12am. Freddy is from Nashville and will perform one night only. On Saturday, September 24, Dena Kaye will be performing live at 9:30pm. Dena is from Texas and has performed at the H&S many times over the last several years. Popular with both men and women, Dena will sing her latest recording to keep the crowd dancing. Sunday, Sept. 25, will be the Finale and a special Barn Dance will go on all nite.



Entertainment will also be going on in the main bar of the Complex.

Voting Blocks and Coalitions

by Franklin Whitworth

While we would like to believe that everyone votes for the best candidate, the reality is that "blocks" of voters, in various coalitions with others, really are the most significant consideration in determining the outcome of elections.

Historically, the voting block is one of the most powerful of all tools in achieving some united end in the world of politics. One need only realize that the movement that brought America's black population from virtual non-existence in society to a position of influence was driven more by the reality of the power of the Black vote than by some esoteric belief by white male politicians that it was only right that America's Negroes be included in civil rights laws.

One of the most significant parts of the so called civil rights movement was the drive to register and educate Black voters and to teach them the power of the block vote. The danger of the vote was fully realized by those who would continue the oppression and they erected all types of barriers to prevent registration of minority voters.

Some of the most violent and important battles were fought over this single issue. Complicated registration procedures were established and those who would run registration drives were faced with voter registration offices with irregular hours and officials who would not cooperate. Many times, groups of potential Black voters would show up at city halls only to find them closed under one pretense or the other. Whites who worked to register Blacks were labeled traitors and were subjected to threats and abuse.

Registration was not all of the battle, however. Intimidation was used to prevent Blacks from going to the polls and, once there, insufficiently manned polls resulted in long waits that were designed to discourage voter participation.

But America's Black population went to the polls and more often than not, it voted in a block. Often, voting percentages in essentially all Black precincts were in the upper ninety percentiles for a particular candidate and for a particular issue. There was also a tendency for a high turnout at the polls. The combination of this high voter turnout and the block vote was often the controlling factor in many areas, especially urban areas, where the black population, in coalition with White liberals and other minorities, suddenly became a force that had to be reckoned with.

Other more insidious factors had to be faced, including the weighted vote. Voting districts were drawn to reduce the influence of the Black vote and to reduce the effectiveness of the people they elected. The result was that one type of candidate, the white one, found himself in neatly packaged all-white districts and easily elected by small numbers of voters. In other areas, Black populations were divided up into various voter districts, making sure that they were in the distinct minority in all.

Thus, the fights over reapportionment (how district lines were drawn) and the concept of "one man--one vote" (all votes being weighted the same in value) became the next significant battle in Black liberation. These battles were most often fought out between reluctant legislatures and federal courts. They are still being fought out today in some areas.

This little history lesson has a point. Blacks are not the only ones who have used the concept of "block" voting. Unions have used it; White segregationists have used it; the NRA uses it, etc., ad infinitum. While we would like to believe that everyone votes for the best candidate, the reality is that "blocks" of voters, in various coalitions with others, really are the most significant consideration in determining the outcome of elections.

Several weeks ago, it was announced in some survey or the other that between eight and ten percent of Americans count themselves as members of Fundamentalist sects. Ninety-two percent of these, it was reported, vote in any given election and they vote overwhelmingly the same way.

This has varying impact according to the district in which one lives. In some areas, this percentages would be lower; in others, like Colorado Springs, it is much higher. It doesn't take a mathematical genius to see how important such a block is.

For ease of handling, assume that the figure nationwide of fundamentalist is ten percent. Round the population to 250 millions, suggesting that there are about 25 million Fundamentalist. Assuming that most are adult who have made this decision, but allowing for children, lower that to 20 million voters, ninety-two percent of whom (18,400,000) vote. This is an impressive "block" of voters to consider at the next presidential election, even after you factor in other considerations, ie., those who do not vote with the block, etc. But even if you take away 3.5 million, you still have a very impressive force.

How does this effect an area like El Paso County. Let us assume that fifteen percent (deemed low) of the population is of the fundamentalist persuasion, ninety-two percent of whom vote the same way in ninety-five percent of the cases. For the sake of argument, say there are 350,000 citizens in Colorado Springs. This would mean that there are 52,000 fundamentalists. Also, for the sake of argument, say half of these are qualified to vote (allowing for children and those not registered). This is a block of 26,000 voters who go to the polls and vote the same way. The recent primary brought out 20 percent of the eligible vote (38,000 county wide.) We might expect 40 percent (76,000) to vote in the general election in November. t is not hard to see that any candidate who can count on the Fundamentalist

continued

VOTING BLOCKS AND COALITIONS

There are people running for office who would eliminate us from viable participation in government and society. By not voting, we are giving them license to do so.

block vote, has a pocket vote of 33 percent of the total expected vote going into a general election in El Paso County. Start adding in voters who can be expected to vote the same way--other conservatives, NRA members, other Republicans, etc., and it is easy to understand the nature of El Paso County government and officials. One doesn't often get elected without the support of a block like this and, while anyone elected would likely agree with these people to begin with, even if they don't, elected officials don't often stand up to a block like this in issues the block deems important.

All of this leads to the importance of voting, especially if you are in the minority. This overwhelming control of local politics comes from a base of only fifteen percent. The power of this vote is that it can largely be count ed on to vote (more than doubling the value of each vote) and it can be counted on to vote one way.

When Amendment Two passed, this author was watching the returns at a local gay bar. After it became clear that the amendment would pass, I began talking to the dozen people sitting at the small bar. All were residents, four were not registered and four had not bothered to vote. Out of a potential twelve votes, only one-third were cast despite the importance of this issue to these people.

It is unbelievably important that we, as a community, utilize every possible avenue to protect our rights and to bring about inclusion in the community. Unlike the Blacks of earlier times who faced obstacles and physical harm to register and vote, there is no barrier to any citizen today. Registration and voting could hardly be easier.

Yet, if the past is any judge, when election results come over the TV at that same bar in November, odds are that a third or less of those who are listening to them will have voted.

The glbt community has to be made aware that there are issues and candidates in this election that are directly related to their lives and well-being. There are people running for office who would eliminate us from viable participation in government and society. By not voting, we are giving them license to do so.

You can register today. DO IT!!! But, remember, this has no value unless you familiarize yourself with the issues and candidates in order that you can cast an informed vote.

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A PLACE OF THEIR OWN

by Julie Cooper

Far too many doors remain closed to the lesbian community, everything from parental and marital rights, lost jobs, health benefits, social constrictions, to the broken promise of "don't ask - don't tell" military policy.

However, one door in town is always open, the door to the only lesbian-focused, gay-supportive bar in Southern Colorado, *True Colors*.

True Colors' philosophy is altruistically unique in the break-neck, make-more-money world of business. "The owners don't care about turning a profit," said Tina Cassidy, manager of *True Colors* and bartender extraordinaire: "They wanted to create a place where womyn could be themselves, meet other womyn, and not have to watch every move they make. All they want to do is break even. This bar is for womyn, and womyn need to support it."

Entertainment tops the list of personal budget cuts when ends don't meet and financial belts need tightening. This holds true for everyone, including the gay community. Southern Colorado's only lesbian bar, barely five-year old and already boasting a strong history, is feeling the pinch of those tightening belts.

The three owners of *True Colors*, Barb Bacon, Jan Bacon and Carmen Grande, risked their own money, plus a little borrowed, to open the bar. Jan, Barb's younger sister, does the bookkeeping and oversees the background operations at *True Colors*. In addition to their responsibilities at the bar, Barb and Carmen hold daytime jobs.

"We wanted to make something good for the community," Barb Bacon said. "We've had comedians in here, we've had live bands, individual singers, Karaoke, but on the weekends people want to dance."

True Colors first opened its doors to customers December 1989 after a long and involved search for just the right place. The owners originally sought a location on the Westside, but the selection was sparse and nothing suited the vision they had in mind. Wanting to break from the traditional dark and claustrophobic atmosphere of many area bars, the womyn looked for something open, airy and with windows. They found it at 1865 N. Academy Blvd.

"The walls were black...," Bacon recalled; "but it was big and the price was right. It was also tucked back in the corner and we liked that." Their first job was to whitewash the walls and tailor the interior toward womyn and what they believed womyn wanted in a bar.

Indeed, gone are the dark, dingy, septic-tank undergrounds where lesbians were forced to gather in the past for the sake of each other's company. The black walls, still common in many gay men's bars, are replaced at *True Colors* with warm wood paneling and painted a rich shade of dusty rose. Splashed around the bar are tasteful images of womyn, a community information board, and softly lit signs beckoning customers to try a new brew.

True Colors' lounge area accommodates every social need: the standard barstool, 4-person tables that quickly turn into 20-footers with a little maneuvering, intimate, two-womyn rounds designed for personal conversation and a sitting bar that spans the large dance floor.

But there's more to *True Colors* than drinking and dancing. Two pool tables grace the northeast section, an electronic dartboard winks its welcome just inside the entrance while the pinball machine's lights flicker seductively next to the bar.

Although *True Colors* opened for and supports lesbians, its customers represent a wide spectrum of the Colorado Springs community. Despite rumors, men are welcome at *True Colors*.

"Everyone is welcome here," Bacon said warmly. "We occasionally have (straight) guys who come in because their wives don't feel threatened and they aren't tempted. It always amazes me how well they're treated here." In fact, on Friday and Saturday nights, the crowded, womyn-dominated dance floor is laced with straight and male couples.

Womyn come to *True Colors* for a variety of reasons. Friday and Saturday nights offer new and alternative dance music, with a smattering of country that tends to draw a younger crowd.

"The atmosphere is really open here and the staff is great," said one young female regular.

"You can dance to the music they play here," another said. "Some other places just play rap."

"You can be affectionate here," a womyn in her thirties said. "At (another bar) you're not allowed to do that."

Compared with other big city bars, *True Colors* is a hidden treasure and a bargain nestled here in Colorado Springs.

"In L.A.," observed a woman visiting from California, "You have a choice of paying no or low cover to get into a dive, or $10 or more cover to get into the nicer places, plus $4 to $5 for a drink. This place is awesome."

The ambiance at *True Colors* draws lesbians and gay men from different cultures, different experiences and even from different areas of the state.

"We come up from Walsenburg twice a month," a womyn said. "There's nothing for lesbians there (Walsenburg), this is the only lesbian bar in Southern Colorado."

But that's a 160-mile round-trip.

"It's worth it," she said, nodding emphatically.

"Everybody here comes from a different background," manager Cassidy said, "but we're a family, we take care of each other. People need to come down and experience the community here."

True Colors tries to accommodate all tastes and interests within the widely diverse womyn's community, "...and I think we do a pretty good job," Cassidy said.

Each night of the week offers a different format to draw in that diversity. Thursday night is Country and Western night, attracting the slightly older, boot-kickin' two-steppin' crowd. Tuesday night offers free pool and light rock while Wednesday boasts 50 cent drafts. During football season, *True Colors* is open on Sundays for "Bronco Mania" bashes, and on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 12 p.m. for Monday Nite Football fans.

Businesses experience ups and downs, and *True Colors* is no exception. In a slump since January, the bar has barely made the bills, and that's with added investments from the owners. The manager and owners are open to suggestions on what the lesbian community wants in their bar.

"*True Colors* is here for the community, but the community isn't supporting it," said Bacon. "We need to know what the community wants. We don't have a million dollars, but we can do almost anything, we just need to know what to do." Indeed, true to the summer slump most bars experience, at 10 p.m. on a Tuesday, only ten customers were present.

"Slumps in the bar business run in cycles of every one to one and one-half years for indeterminate lengths of time," according to Frank Whitworth, who has owned and managed bars and clubs across the country. Bars and bar owners need to be aggressive in order to draw the business flow back in their direction he added.

The community's once monopolized gay-bar scene received a hefty dose of competition when *True Colors* opened.

"It would be a shame if we went back to being a one bar town," Whitworth confided. "Competition and variety are healthy for business. They not only bring community members out, but they also encourage out-of-town visitors."

Many factors influence womyn's attendance at bars. The fact that womyn still only make 71 cents on the male dollar reduces the amount of money available to womyn for social activities. Children also take a tremendous amount of time and money from a womyn's social life.

"This is the first time we've been out in almost six months," a lesbian couple confided. "With a two and a five year old, time and money become very tight."

For their own survival, womyn need to be selective about where they spend their hard-earned dollars and to be aware of which businesses support womyn and which ones don't.

"Womyn need to take care of womyn for womyn's issues... for womyn's lives," Cassidy said. "Why do womyn spend money at businesses that don't support them and don't put money back into the community?"

True Colors has always supported local lesbian and gay activities. "Everytime we've asked for something from *True Colors*, they've always come through," said Bob Mone, president of Ground Zero, a local grassroots gay rights and educational organization.

During the Amendment 2 campaign, when other businesses in town shrank from politics for fear it would hurt profits, *True Colors* boldly went where no area gay bar had gone before, into the forefront of political action. It developed and promoted fundraisers for the Equal Protection Campaign (EPOC), announced political activities, distributed anti-2 information, set up a "No on 2" donation box and said "yes" to anything local EPOC asked for.

Throughout the campaign, *True Colors* became an information hub and gathering place for lesbians and gay men to come together, discuss politics, drink, dance, and form community, something the isolated gay population hadn't experienced to this degree before. It also offered a place to watch the election returns and share the pain, the tears, and confusion the Amendment 2 results brought. It was at *True Colors* that the community truly became a family; where it grew in strength and courage and became the cohesive, influential and respected group it is today.

"*True Colors* was there when the community needed it," according to a board member at Ground Zero and former EPOC state co-chair. "Now it's the community's turn to be there for *True Colors*."

What if *True Colors* continues to operate in the red?

"This place will stay open as long as the community supports it," Bacon said. "We (the owners) just want the bar to pay for itself. We'd like to be here for 20 years - or more."

A personal note: from the author

True Colors is not just a bar, it is a Lesbian Lair. Here womyn can come together and enjoy the support of a loving community. It's a place where womyn can break out of their shells, be themselves, meet new womyn, spend time, share space and absorb good, safe feminine energy among their sisters.

And womyn, let's not forget that we are all sisters.

When something like True Colors enters our lives that we call our own in a society that continues to take from us, we need to embrace and support it, as a mother holds a suckling child. For as such, both draw from and support each other; if either is left alone, the support is gone and a great loss is felt by both.

Lesbians need to support their gathering places, for themselves, for their sisters and for those who have yet to come out. We need a place where conversation flows freely, to share our loves, loses, hurts, joys, fears, dance steps and laughter (no sound compares to the unbridled laughter of womyn!).

And, speaking for this journalist, a place to open the door, walk out of the closet and, finally, walk into myself.

I came out at True Colors, through a long intense struggle that surfaced during the EPOC campaign. If it had not been for the loving, caring support I received from the family at TC would probably not be the out, vocal, dream-catching womyn I see myself as today.

Through my loves and losses, I was cheered and encouraged, consoled and supported by the womyn at True Colors. A part of me is a part of that bar, as is a part of every womyn who came out there. Let's keep the doors of True Colors open, for our own sakes, and for the womyn who have yet to come out. They'll need us, and they'll need that open door so they too can come out of their closets and walk into themselves.

MURDER IN TEXAS: Is James Dobson Guilty??

Commentary by Glenn Stehle

(Glenn Stehle is Associate Editor of the Marquise--the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered magazine in San Antonio, Texas. He is a political activist who has spent much of his political career addressing the inequities of the criminal justice system.)

The nationwide offensive against gays and lesbians by the religious right is being coordinated out of Colorado Springs by James Dobson and the Focus on the Family ministries. The anti-gay lexicon is formulated there and, through an elaborate scheme, exported throughout the country (see "The Organized Assault on Gay Rights", *Ground Zero News*, August, 1994). One thus hears the same lies and distortions in Texas as one hears anywhere else in the country.

In November, 1993, a 23 year-old Hispanic man was abducted from a downtown park in the small, east Texas community of Tyler. He was carried 10 miles out of town where he was terrorized, tortured and murdered. One of the three perpetrators of this crime, Donald Aldrich, gave a statement of confession on December 3, 1993.

Aldrich's statement is disturbing because it inheres so much of the anti-gay rhetoric we see emanating from the religious right. It is as if Aldrich was mimicking James Dobson or Pat Robertson in his confession.

Following are some of the elements communicated in Aldrich's statement, their corollaries in religious right rhetoric and a discussion of their mendacity.

LIE # 1: I don't like homosexuals, the majority of people don't like homosexuals and therefore nothing prevents me from victimizing them with impunity. Aldrich was obviously a bully. He had become so convinced of societal opprobrium for homosexuals that he believed his victimization of homosexuals would be condoned, if not applauded.

In this way, the religious right served as a booster club for Donald Aldrich. It is the religious right that informed his belief that "most Americans don't approve of the homosexual lifestyle."

This poisoning of Aldrich's thoughts cost Nicholas West his life and is slated to cost Donald Aldrich his.

The truth is that the majority of Americans don't even believe in job discrimination against homosexuals. A 1992 Gallup Poll reveals that 74% of Americans believe homosexuals should have equal rights in terms of job opportunities.

The fallacious claim that the religious right speaks for the "majority of Americans" is typical of their rhetoric. The religious right is always expending, or attempting to expend, someone else's cachet--whether it be God's, the American people or that of other people of faith.

A July 22, 1994 *New York Times/CBS News* Poll found that only 9% of Americans think of themselves as being members of the religious right. Even more enlightening, 66% of Americans assert they "don't know" anything or know "not much" about the religious right.

Nine percent is of course a far cry from a majority of the American people.' The fact that Department of Justice polls show similar percentages of Americans believing in such notions as "police should not be required to have search warrants" of "police should be allowed to use violent force while interrogating criminal suspects" helps put the Cristo-fascist religious right movement in its proper perspective.

Not only does the religious right not speak for "most Americans," it doesn't even speak for most "people of faith." As Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the **National Council of Churches** and board member of the newly formed **Interfaith Alliance** stated, "Our concern is that the radical right lays claim to the fact that they uniquely speak for people of faith in this country, in essence that 'God is on our side.' We feel we must come together as an interfaith group and say to this country there is an alternate religious voice."

"Putting it another way, we're against spiritual intimidation," said Dr. Herbert D. Valentine, executive director of the **Baltimore Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church** (U.S.A.).

Lie # 2: Homosexuals sexually abuse children. Colorado for Family Values asserted that people living a homosexual lifestyle were responsible for 50% of all child molestation.

This theme was repeated by Donald Aldrich in his confession when he stated. "I can only imagine how a four year-old girl feels when she is carried to a homosexual hangout and raped and left tied up for other guys to come out there and do what they want."

These statements are absolute nonsense!

The results of a recent study by Carole Jenny, Thomas Roesler and Kimberly Poyer were recently published in *Pediatrics*, the journal of the **American Academy of Pediatrics.** What they found was "a child's risk of someone being molested by his or her relative's heterosexual partner is over 100 times greater than by someone who might by identifiable as being homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual."

These findings are consistent with a 1988 study conducted by the **United States Department of Justice.** This study, though it did not seek to identify the social lifestyles of the offenders, nevertheless did find that 19% of child sexual abuse was committed by the natural father, 20% by a step father and 22% by another family member. Of the victims, 79% had not begun to exhibit secondary sex characteristics, evidence much at odds with the myth propagated by the religious right that child sex offenders are stimulated by sexual attraction.

Lie # 3: Homosexuals are sex fiends who sexually harass and rape straight men. On August 13, 1994 Pat Robertson addressed the Church of God's 65th General Assembly in San Antonio, Texas. Robertson passionately conveyed his belief that the end of the world is near and went on to enumerate seven "signs" from God in support of his belief. One of these was the "sign of Sodom."

Robertson said he had informants in the Los Angeles Police Department vice squad who alerted him to the occurrence of a huge outbreak of male rape in Los Angeles--thus the "sign of Sodom" and the "coming of the end of the world."

I do not know if Pat Robertson is experiencing a full-blown delusionary psychotic episode or if this is--as state's witness Dr. Jerry Landrum appraised Donald Aldrich's claim that he had been raped a child--"pure manipulation."

Donald Aldrich, in addition to stating he had been raped as a 9 year-old, asserted that guys were always "making passes at me" and that Nicholas West "came on to me."

Aldrich is not an attractive man. He is 29 years old, balding, overweight and looks much older than his 29 years. He was unemployed and is described as having very poor grooming habits. It is very unlikely that an attractive, young Hispanic man would "come on" to Donald Aldrich.

Testimony during the trial by several other victims indicated it was always Aldrich who approached them and was the aggressor.

The assertions of Pat Robertson and Don Aldrich are almost as outrageous as those of Nicolo Giangrasso, a Marine who robbed and brutally beat a gay man to death on New Years Day, 199 in San Antonio. The 250 pound Marine, who had just completed basic training and was in top physical shape, claimed the 37 year-old, 5'8" Hispanic school teacher had raped him and that he had beaten him to death in a retaliatory fit of passion.

Even more remarkable is that Bexar County Attorney Steve Ilibig and District Judge Terry McDonald accepted this story, reduced Giangrasso's charge from murder to voluntary manslaughter and released him on 10 years deferred adjudication--a form of probation that leaves no criminal record.

Indeed, Dr. Landrum explained that pleading "sexual assault" has become a "fad" with criminal offenders and remarked that the "dramatic increase in the last few years in criminal defendants pleading sexual assault" is well documented in the literature.

Whether Pat Robertson, Donald Aldrich and Nicolo Giangrasso are psychotic, sociopathic or what; one thing is apparent--they are willing to say things which have no basis in reality and they exhibit absolutely no remorse for the harm inflicted on others by their actions.

Lie # 4: Homosexuals engage in sex acts out in the open where people can see them. A recent park sting operation conducted by the San Antonio Police Department to rough up "homosexuals" was ostensibly conducted because of "citizen complaints." Supposedly, men were engaging in public sex acts--sex acts out in the open where everyone could see them--thus making the parks unuseable for "families and children."

The SAPD embarked on a campaign to systematically entrap men in the parks and *The San Antonio Express* News colluded by publishing the names of those persons arrested in the park. The *Express News* gave the pernicious letter writing hordes of the religious right free rein to spew forth their lies and distortions on the pages of the paper. This resulted in the destruction of at least one man's career and one suicide that we know of.

Talk about a full-blown psychotic delusionary episode--this one took the cake!

Most of the men who frequent the parks for the sole purpose of looking for sex are married. These highly closeted men won't even go to gay bars for fear of being seen. The thought that they would engage in flagrant sex acts in city parks--out in the open for the whole world to see--is an absurdity of unfathomable dimensions.

This is an example of how a group of deceitful, misguided, deluded religious fanatics--through orchestration of a "base of letter writers"--successfully satanized, dehumanized and, through manipulation of civil authorities and the San Antonio *Express News*, inflicted unimaginable emotional and physical damage on a group of unfortunate souls.

Richard A. Posner, judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (and a Reagan appointee I might add), recently rendered a decision in which he noted it is "one thing" to expose a "person who hasn't paid his taxes or is stealing from his boss or is cheating--in the usual way--on his wife. These are commonplace forms of misconduct, and while their exposure can impose psychic as well as economic and other forms of tangible harm, it is not so shattering as the revelation of the double life of the homosexual.

Donald Aldrich also intimated that "fags" were willing to have sex out in the open where people could see them. An example of this is provided by this account of "fag bashing" as related by Aldrich; "Started talking to one. He makes a pass at you. No, not here. Let's go somewhere where we won't be seen. So, you go back up where everyone else is at."

Lie # 5: Abortion is murder, I don't believe in abortion, and therefore I am morally superior. Aldrich stated in his confession, "I am not a murderer. I'm not a killer. I do not believe in--I don't even...believe in abortions."

In the light of the recent abortion clinic killings of Dr., John B. Britton and his unarmed security escort, James H. Barrett does this sound like something right out of the religious right play-book or what?

There is tremendous irony in the fact that Donald Aldrich, James Dobson and Pat Robertson profess this overwhelming concern for the survival of some unborn fetus, yet they show absolutely no remorse or concern for the death and destruction they are wrecking on the lives of gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church
730 N. Tejon
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Voice/Fax 719-634-3771

Rev. Nori J. Rost, Pastor

Worship Time Sunday, 5:00 PM
Office Hours Tue-Wed: 1 PM-9-PM, Thu-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM

DAY LONG SESSION TO EXPLORE RELIGION IN THE CLASSROOM

What's the difference between teaching religion and teaching *about* religion? Historically, how has public education handled religious issues? These and many other questions and concerns about the appropriate place of religion in public education will be dealt with in a seminar entitled "Religion in the Classroom: Law, History and Practical Guidelines."

Sponsored by *Citizen's Project* this program will be held September 17, 1994, from 8:30 to 4:30 at University Center, Room 123 on the UCCS campus. The cost of the seminar and lunch is $10 if pre-registered or $15 at the door.

Several legal and historical experts will participate including Steven Green, Legal Director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State; Steven Smith of the "university of Colorado, Boulder; and Stanislaw Damas of the legal firm of Damas and Associates.

Two large group sessions will be held in the morning and workshops and a panel discussion will occupy the afternoon. For more information contact Pat at 520-9899.

WORKSHOPS FOR ACTIVISTS AND CANDIDATES OFFERED

THE INDEPENDENT will host two workshops by Bob Schaeffer, president of Public Policy Communications. The mission of the Boston-based firm is to help social change groups and political campaigns deliver their messages to mass audiences more effectively and efficiently.

GIVING MEDIA OUR MESSAGE: A WORKSHOP FOR ACTIVISTS will take place on Wed., Sept 21, from 9:30 until 4 P.M. This seminar, co-sponsored by Citizen's Project, will train civic and social change activists to get their message covered by both local and national news outlets.

TACTICS TO WIN LOCAL ELECTIONS will take place on Sun., Sept 25 from 10:30 A.M. until 4 P.M. This nuts and bolts workshop is designed for candidates, campaign mangers and activists involved in electoral and initiative campaigns.

A former radio talk show host and columnist for a Boston alternative newsweekly, Schaffer is one of the nation's best political operatives. He has authored for books, including *Winning Local and State elections.* His past clients include NARAL PAC, Barney Frank, John Kerry, etc..

Admission to each seminar is $49, or $89 for both, Space is limited to twenty participants. To reserve space or for more information, call John Weiss at 577-4545.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

COLORADO A.I.M. COLORADO SPRINGS ON ITS 4TH ANNIVERSARY and NATIONAL A.I.M. ON ITS 26TH ANNIVERSARY

from your brothers and sisters in the struggle!!!

PIKES PEAK GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

to host

ELECTION DANCE

On Saturday, September 10th, the PPGLCC will hold a dance at the Germania Club at 710 E. Harrison Ave. beginning at 8PM

A donation of $5.00 gains you admittance for the fun filled evening and the right to vote for members of the Board of Directors of PPGLCC.

GROUND ZERO SEEKS COMING OUT STORIES

Ground Zero will be participating in a week long series of events during the week of October 11th in observance of NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY and we would love your own "coming out story" to be included the the GZN October Edition. These stories are not limited to Gay and Lesbian Lives. We want to hear from all aspects including parents, siblings and friends of gays and lesbians and how their lives were affected by coming out of the homophobic closet. Ground Zero has writers willing to help anyone that has difficulty putting their stories on paper. If you are interested please call the Ground Zero office at (719) 635-6086.

Up and coming events at...

The Penthouse

Friday, September 2, 1994

Team Colorado Wrestling Night! Come meet the members of Team Colorado's Wrestling Team and watch video's of their performances.

Sunday, September 4, 1994

Labor Day Ice Cream Social from 5pm. Rocky Horror Picture Show at 10.

Saturday, September 10, 1994

Penthouse Male Review! $3 Cover. Show starts at 10pm.

Sunday, September 18, 1994

Mr. Penthouse contest with Chris Lee

Thursday, September 22, 1994

Hoe Down Warm-Up!! Two-Stepping and Line Dancing lessons.

Saturday, September 24, 1994

Pikes Peak United Rodeo Hoe Down! Shuttle running from The Penthouse to the Rodeo Hotel on the hour.

1714 N. Academy Blvd. 587-3314

COBB PERSECUTION VIOLATES CONSTITUTION

An Editorial reprinted from the Summer, 1994 issue of *THE NEWS*, published by the Atlanta Gay Center, Inc.

Much has been said and written, all over the world, about the resolution Cobb County commissioners passed condemning their gay and lesbian neighbors. Some of the commissioners themselves have claimed they only passed the resolution to prevent themselves from somehow passing a domestic partnership ordinance, presumably by mistake. They have also congratulated themselves on starting a "debate" over such already much-discussed matters as teenage pregnancy through their attack on the one group in society that is not to blame for teenage pregnancy.

What the Cobb commissioners have done is in fact very clear. They have **declared gays and lesbians an officially persecuted class** in direct violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which guarantees to all persons, (even to non-citizens) equal protection of the laws. They have done this as certainly, as intentionally, as Hitler did when he proclaimed Jews a persecuted class through his notorious Nuremberg Laws.

The Cobb resolution must be repealed, not to avoid relocating some preliminary Olympic volleyball event, but because of its gross illegality. Failing that, aggrieved citizens from Cobb County must challenge it in the courts so that it can be overturned there.

A so-called compromise resolution has been proposed and rejected. This latest effort takes its place beside other ham-handed attempts to defuse the crisis, each of which has only made the situation worse. The compromise resolution would have spoken of human rights for "everyone."

Actually, even repealing the original resolution would not restore gays and lesbians to their former state. The prominence of the vicious "Christian Reconstructionists" in Cobb's anti-gay forces makes it clear the target is not domestic partnerships, but even the most basic human rights of gays and lesbians. **All** of these have been called into question, including the right to vote, the right to be gainfully employed, the right to own or rent property, to use public accommodations, to receive education and medical treatment, and police protection--even the right to go on living, since many of these people are on record as wanting to kill every one of us. Cobb County has a special duty not merely to respect but to affirm every one of the human rights it has seen fit to take away. Until that happens, the maxim of Jefferson applies to them as it did to George III: "*He has abdicated government over us by declaring us outside his protection.*"

We find it especially difficult to comprehend how a champion of "family values" such as Bill Byrne, the Cobb commission chair, could inflict such harm upon his own daughter. We as gays and lesbians have been called "unnatural," but nothing in heaven, earth or hell is so unnatural as a parent who turns against his own children. We hope his sponsorship of the failed compromise, flawed as it was, is a tacit recognition of that fact.

Such are the consequences, some perhaps unintended, of a cheap political stunt. What was clearly unintended was that Cobb County would follow in the tradition of Anita Bryant and all others who have lashed out at gays only to inspire a growing gay movement. They have created such a gay movement in Cobb County, where none existed before.

"To Be Or Not To Be?"
This Is Truly The Question for our community

by Bob Mone

There are going to be two very special and sacred events happening in our community over the next few months in which I am extremely excited about. The first is the marriage ceremony between Betty Lynn Mahaffy and Lyn Boudreau . These two beautiful women are taking the lead in making strides for the entire gay and lesbian community by leading their lives without reservation. Their marriage is not the first for Colorado Springs and that's not the focus of this article. Lyn and Betty Lynn had the guts to enter into a local mainstream church as an open lesbian couple. Now you know as well as I do how often that happens here in homophobeland. The Reverend and many of the church members are to be commended on their openness and loving acceptance, but the braveness of Betty Lynn and Lyn is astounding. They deserve nothing less than a ticker tape parade and a bash on top of Pikes Peak. Of course their relationship with the church continues to be a struggle, and they could have made their lives easier by joining a more accepting congregation like the MCC, but they didn't. They did not let fear and homophobia shape the direction of their lives which is why they are such heroines in my eyes, and such a bright shining example to gays and lesbians everywhere. We need to be more like them!

Betty Lynn and Lyn faced an entire congregation and succeeded in changing the minds of many churchgoers about gays and lesbians. Their story is fitting because it leads into the rest of my article about the second event happening on October 11th, National Coming Out Day. This is the time for our community to band together and help those who need assistance with coming out. This is the time when all gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people need to ask the question: "To be out, or not to be out". But by all means with the emphasis on the first part because that is the answer. To be out about who you are is living the truth and is the one way we will be able to change the consciousness of this world. We realize that this is not easy and honor where you are in the process. If we can help you take one more step towards coming out it's a victory. The whole Amendment Two debacle forced many back down the "coming out" staircase, but it's definitely time to brush yourself off and head back up and we are here to help. Next month we will be offering assistance for anyone who needs support so look for details in the October edition of GZN. People like Lyn and Betty Lynn are blazing the freedom trail for all of us, but we need to jump on the band wagon with them because there's just to much paving to be done.

Help Yourself & Help GROUND ZERO

by Julie Cooper

Ground Zero has joined a new fundraising campaign that, believe it or not, involves no out of pocket expense for you, and will even save you money within your budget. Yet, Ground Zero will receive a hefty percentage of another company's profits. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to earn free airfare or accommodations to selected prime vacation sites. And you don't even need to leave the comfort of your futons to do it.

Sound too good to be true? Well, hold onto your britches li'l' buckaroos, because it's the God's honest truth. (Not Kevin's God, the other one!)

Ground Zero just signed on with National Telephone Communications (NTC), the fastest growing long-distance company in the country today. In this plan, members of Ground Zero, and anyone else who wants to support GZ, signs up using the special form on the next page and sends the form to Ground Zero.

THAT'S IT!!!

Within two to four weeks, your long-distance will be switched over to NTC with no interruption to your service and at no cost to you. Not only will you receive the lowest possible price on your long-distance calls, a savings of 20% to 50% depending on where and when you call, Ground Zero will receive 5 percent of your bill taken directly from NTC's profits. You'll be saving money and donating to your favorite organization at the same time.

When you sign on with NTC through GZ, you can receive a "FLAG" calling card at no charge that can be used anywhere and anytime you want, even at payphones. While the big three's calling cards, MCI AT&T and Sprint, have a surcharge of 79 cents to 85 cents per call plus the cost of the call (always at the prime rate), NTC's card has no surcharge and charges you the rate you'd receive if you were using your home phone.

NTC can charge these outrageously low rates because of their very low overhead. How many NTC commercials have you ever seen? Now, how many Sprint, AT&T and MCI commercials have you seen in the past week? These cost the companies hundred of thousands of dollars each time they're shown, not to mention the huge corporate salaries and bonuses handed out like candy. Guess who pays for all of this? If you're with one of these companies, it's you!

Signing on with NTC you not only get great rates and super benefits, you also get some incredible incentives as well.

Just signing up for the basic Dial-1 service you can save considerably on your regular long-distance, and especially your international calls rates.

Also, NTC charges in six-second intervals, even with the calling card, vs the one-minute intervals charged by the Big Three. That means a call to Denver from your home phone during prime hours, (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F) at 30 cents per minute would only cost you six cents on NTC if you reached an answering machine and hung up. MCI, AT&T and Sprint would have charged you the entire 30 cents. And, if you had used one of their calling cards, that hang-up call could have cost you a whopping $1.15 for a six second call! For greater savings, NTC offers a SureSaver card, a Euro-styled debit card that adds on to your long distance savings. . If you make international calls, you'll receive the lowest rates available, especially on the weekends, and you don't have to wait for the holidays or a special promotion to get these rates.

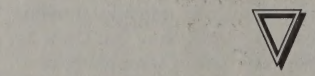
For example, a call to Korea, China or the Philippines could be as low as 29 cents per minute if you use your card on the weekends. Even on MCI's Friends Around the World, the cost of a call to Korea on Saturday or Sunday is 63 cents per minute, charged in one-minute intervals, of course.

That means a 30-minute call to Korea on Saturday will only cost $8.70 with NTC. MCI would have charged you $18.96 for that same call! There's another corporate bonus!

Aren't these savings worth trying NTC for six months? I use the six month time frame because if you pay your NTC bill on time for five months, you'll receive an additional 10% off your bill, plus you qualify for the travel incentives offered by NTC for their prime customers, regardless of how much you spend on long distance.

By the way, there is no cost, ever, for having NTC on your phone. If you never make a long distance call, you'll simply see zeros on your phone bill.

So, give your budget a boost and support Ground Zero at the same time by sending your completed form in TODAY!



AND AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

If you have any questions about the service, please call either the Ground Zero office, 635-6086 and ask for Julie, or if she's not there, ask for her home phone. She'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please remember, National Telephone Communications is solely responsible for this service. If you have any questions regarding billng or service after you've signed on, please call their 24 hour a day/ 7 day a week 800 number

DON'T DELAY!

THE SOONER YOU SEND IT IN, THE SOONER YOU'LL START SAVING ON YOUR LONG-DISTANCE CALLS AND THE SOONER GROUND ZERO WILL RECEIVE ITS FIVE PERCENT.

DONTCHA DO IT!!! DON'T TURN THIS PAGE 'TIL YOU READ THE ARTICLE ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE AND 'TIL YOU FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW!!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

NTC National Telephone & Communications

SERVICE REQUEST

❑ Residential Dial-1 Service
❑ Business Dial-1 Service ❑ 800 Plus ❑ 800 Call Me

Customer Information *Please Print Clearly*

Name (as it appears on phone bill)

Physical Address (not a P.O. Box)

City | State | Zip

Billing Address (if different)

City | State | Zip

Service Information *List each number including area code*

Billing or Main Number
( )

Additional Number
( )

Additional Number
( )

Present Long Distance Carrier

Estimated Long Distance Usage
$ per month

Special Services *Check only the additional services you desire*

☐ Indicate Number of *FREE* Travel Calling Cards desired.

❑ **800 Call Me or 800 PLUS**
Telephone number to *ring* on: ( ) .

❑ **Attached is the 800 Carrier Transfer Form (1600) to transfer existing 800 number to NTC's 800 Plus.**

Authorization — PLEASE READ REVERSE SIDE BEFORE SIGNING —

☑ **YES, I authorize National Telephone & Communications (NTC) to act as my agent in all matters relating to my long distance telephone service, and to notify my local phone company to connect me to the NTC network.**

Customer Signature
X

Date

Customer Name (Please Print)

Fill our the form above and mail to:
Ground Zero Ref #305001492
P. O. Box 1892
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

ABOUT MY AUTHORIZATION
I will be a customer of National Telephone & Communications (NTC). I am at least 18 years of age and have the authority to sign this Letter of Agency. I may designate only one long distance service. I will receive my bill for long distance usage I have incurred from NTC or I may be billed through my local phone company. My calls will be routed over NTC's designated network provider. My local telephone company may assess a service charge for each phone line I change. I agree to pay for any long distance charges I incur. NTC offers a Prompt Pay Discount when I pay my bill within 21 days. I will receive my Prompt Pay Discount as a credit on my next bill.

800 SERVICE
I understand that 800 Call Me service is designed for the customer whose 800 usage is estimated to be *less* than $50 per month. The 800 PLUS is designed for the customer whose 800 usage is estimated to be *more* than $50 per month.

RISK FREE
I understand that if I am dissatisfied with NTC's service or rates, NTC will, within the first 90 days upon my written request, reimburse me for the cost to switch me back to my original carrier.

EXCITING CUSTOMER INCENTIVES
After I've paid my first 5 consecutive long distance bills from NTC (within 21 days), I will be entitled to select a vacation package with complimentary airfare or accommodations. After I've paid 12 consecutive bills on time, another vacation or a two-for-one cruise will be offered.

I may depart by air from most U.S. cities, including Hawaiian cities, and I must purchase 7 nights lodging in Orlando or 12/14 nights in Hawaii depending upon my point of departure.

Accommodations are provided when I purchase two non-promotional round trip airfares. A $25 processing and handling fee will be paid to NTC. Alternative dates for travel may be offered. NTC is not responsible for the performance of the travel/tour agents, or cruise lines. Other conditions and restrictions may apply.

ADDITIONAL NUMBERS

( ) _____ ( ) _____
( ) _____ ( ) _____
( ) _____ ( ) _____

TOLL FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE 1 800 569-4NTC
REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORT LINE (714) 251-8080

FINALLY A LONG DISTANCE COMPANY THAT WILL SAVE YOU MONEY, GIVE GREAT SERVICE AND SEND 5% TO GROUND ZERO TO AID IN ITS SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY

Congratulations to
Lyn and Betty Lynn

May you live in peace and
love for many years to
come.....

FOCUS--What's it all about?

Ministry of GOD? or

Ministry of the **ALMIGHTY DOLLAR?$?$**

Don't miss Focus on the Family's Summer Clearance Sale!

August 20th thru August 27th
(except Sunday the 21st)

We're pitching a tent and setting out an assortment of specially discounted books, videocassettes and much more! Visit under the tent for super buys—while supplies last—or browse through the bookstore located in our brand-new Welcome Center. Focus on the Family resources make wonderful gifts for every member of the family. Since Christmas is just around the corner, why not get a jump on your holiday shopping? Earlybirds receive a free giveaway just for stopping by!

We welcome Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card and personal checks.

Focus on the Family's Briargate Campus

The above promotional piece was received in early August by a number of our members who happen to be on the Focus on the Family mailing list. The very commercial nature of the piece brought those of us at Ground Zero to ask the question, "Is Focus on the Family a business operation or a ministry???"

The Crossword below is published with the gracious approval of Kathleen DeBold. It may be found in her book *WORD GAYMES, 101 puzzles with lesbian and gay themes*, Boston:Alyson Publications, Inc., 1993.

Kathleen is the political services coordinator of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington D.C. Her puzzles appear regularly in the *Washington Blade: Lambda Book Report and other gay and lesbian publications throughout the country. The solution for this crossword will appear in the next GZ NEWS.*

WORD GAYME #31: GAY WRITES

© Kathleen DeBold 1992

ACROSS

1. Invitation request
5. Eye hair
9. Before tee
12. Linda Hunt film, *The ___ of Living Dangerously*
13. Killer whale
14. Lick up
15. Rest
16. Bridle adjunct
17. Type of lift
18. Bubbly drink
20. *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* author, Gertrude ___
22. *The Persistent Desire* editor, Joan ___
25. Diarist Rorem
26. Ancient priestly garment
27. Play on words
28. Grab
31. Observed
32. Acquire
33. Surrender

ACROSS (Cont'd)

34. Serial killer Bundy
35. Tree juice
36. Corn
37. Karen Thompson book, *Sharon Kowalski Can't Come Home*
38. *Surviving AIDS* author, Michael ___
39. *In the Game* author Baker
42. *The Bluest Eye* author Morrison
43. Tax shelter
44. *Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend* author, Anita ___
46. Accomplishment
50. Clique
51. Bouncy gait
52. Division word
53. Enzyme suffix
54. Japanese coins
55. Rocker ___ Ant

DOWN

1. J. D. Salinger's *Catcher in the ___*
2. Adriatic, for one
3. Duct
4. *Mr. Benson* author, John ___
5. *A Burst of Light* author, Audre ___
6. Neighborhood
7. School subject
8. Gay mystery writer, Joseph ___
9. Otherwise
10. Author H. H. Munro
11. Twirl
19. Lee Lynch novel, *That ___ Studebaker*
21. Football score
22. Avian apartment
23. Sword
24. Molt
25. Large seed
27. Energy
28. *Out in the World* author Miller
29. Cutting tool
30. "Where have you ___?"
32. Leigh Rutledge book, *The Fireside Companion*
33. *The Advocate Advisor* author, Pat ___
35. *The Mayor of Castro Street* author, Randy ___
36. Male human
37. Part of a mo.
38. Charges
39. *The Bar Stories* author Donnelly
40. Angers
41. Writer Millett or Chopin
42. Animated character, for short
45. Raw minerals
47. "Go off the deep ___."
48. "___ loss for words."
49. ___ of Finland

Ground Zero's Volunteer Sheet

Ground Zero is an all volunteer non-profit organization. To survive we need and accept all help that is offered. There are many different volunteer positions available and no experience is necessary to participate. Thank you for your support and we believe you will find your volunteer experience at Ground Zero is self - fulfilling and beneficial to the community.

Please print and fill in all information, Thank You.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone #: ( )_____

When is the best time to contact you?_____

Please be specific in what days and times you are available to volunteer

_____

_____

_____

Below is a list of areas where there is an ongoing need for volunteers. Please circle any that you would like to become involved with.

Office Aid	Fundraiser	Information Distributor
Journalists	Telemarketer	Grant Writer
Word Processor	Media	Data Entry

If there are other areas of interest, or you have any qualifications or skills that you would like to offer, please explain in this section.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Colorado Springs Diversity Chorus

OPEN HOUSE, SEPT. 1 (THURSDAY)
UNITARIAN CHURCH

ALL VOICES WELCOMED AS WELL AS SEXUAL ORIENTATION!!!!

THE DENVER SCENE

Sept. 1 - Sept. 17, Denver Civic Theatre, 721 Santa Fe Drive. TEN PERCENT REVUE "A warm, witty slice of gay life.... lively and engaging..." *Los Angelse Times* Call 303-595-3800 for more info.

Sept. 10, A Lesbian and Gay Statewide Democratic Initiative meeting 10 - 5 at the Coloardo Democratic Party Headquarters, 777 Grant St. Call 303-830-8242 for more info.

Sept. 21 Chinook Fund's Seventh Anniversary Celebration, at Wynkoop Brewing Company, Lower Level $30 per person, $50, couple. Call 303-455-6905 for more info.

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